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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.)

CARE OF A BABY'S NAVEL

DEAR EDITOR: In answer to the letter from Ohio regarding care of a baby's cord, I will tell my method of care of the navel. I keep the cord clean and disinfected by using, twice a day, a solution of alcohol and sterile water, equal parts of each. For a dressing I use sterile cotton and stearate of zinc powder. I have never had any difficulty with a cord being slow to heal, and there has been no odor in any of my cases.

Washington.

A WESTERN NURSE.

PRACTICAL NURSING IN TYPHOID FEVER

I.

DEAR EDITOR: Much interest has been expressed in the letter on Practical Nursing in Typhoid Fever in the February number of the JOURNAL. The letter is logical, sound and worth a great deal of consideration.

Another good way to care for typhoid linen is to have it put in a white cotton bag that has been sterilized and then plunge it, bag and all, into the boiler of cold water. The boiler is closely covered and put over the kitchen fire to boil. After boiling for one-half hour the linen is removed and washed in the usual way.

This is not the ideal treatment for good bed linen, but possibly the nurse will try not to use the best the house affords and she will have the satisfaction of knowing that no one but herself was obliged to handle it until it was made safe. The same course of treatment may be followed with bed linen used for other infectious diseases.

Massachusetts.

M. M. R.

II.

DEAR EDITOR: If there has not arisen any discussion of the article on Typhoid Precautions in Private Nursing, I would like to say that I have used a carbolic (1-40) solution on my own and patients' clothing for seven weeks consecutively without any harm to clothes or to my hands. I think it is too much to expect of the ordinary laundress to ask her to intelligently care for her hands after handling clothes that have not been disinfected and also it is not teaching the best nursing when nothing is said of disinfecting the water in which the clothes have stood. Possibly I have misunderstood the article I criticise; if so, in excuse I would offer a keen interest in the subject of which I have made a special study.

Ohio.

HARRIET L. P. FRIEND, R.N.

"SOME NURSES' VAGARIES"

DEAR EDITOR: After reading and seriously reflecting on Dr. Walter Sands Mills' article in the February JOURNAL, I have come to the conclusion that his article is very one-sided, not that there are not the kind of nurses of whom